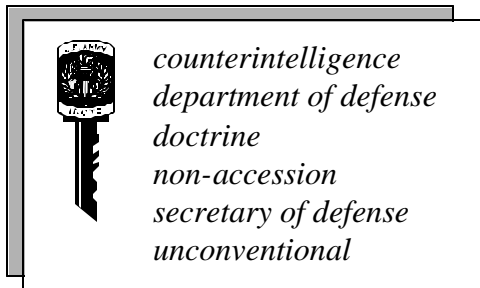


LESSON 2: THE U.S. ARMY PART 1 - THE ACTIVE ARMY



INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Army dates back to June 1775. On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress adopted the Continental Army when it appointed a committee to “draft the rules and regulations for the government of the Army.” This authorization marks the birthday of the U.S. Army, the oldest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Army is a major part of the U.S. Armed Forces, which collectively are responsible for defending American interests by:

- Supporting and defending the *Constitution* of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.
- Ensuring, by timely and effective military action, the security of the United States, its possessions, and areas vital to its interests.
- Upholding and advancing the national policies and interests of the United States.
- Safeguarding the internal security of the United States.

Within that framework, the fundamental mission of the U.S. Army is to deter war and to win in combat. However, there is much more to the Army than accomplishing that mission. In fact, the Army spends most of its time involved in peacetime activities.

ORIGINS OF THE U.S. ARMY

As you learned earlier, the legal basis for the establishment of the Army, as well as for the other branches of the armed forces, is set forth in the *Constitution*. The *Constitution* stipulates that the U.S. Armed Forces must answer to and be responsible for the needs and desires of the American people as expressed by their elected representatives. To achieve that, the Framers established the principle of civilian control over the military — that is, the President serves as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces and Congress alone has the power to raise and support armies and to declare war.

Although the *Constitution* established the need for a system to “provide for the common defense,” it did not define the organization of that system. Therefore, in the course of our nation’s history, the national defense structure has taken many forms. After the ratification of the *Constitution*, the newly formed Congress and President George Washington established the Department of War in 1789 as an executive department. The Secretary of War became its director and his powers were entrusted to him by the president.

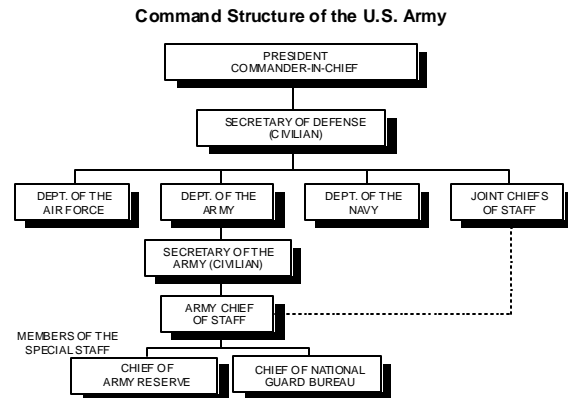
Congress established our present military structure with the passage of two post-World War II legislations: the *National Security Act of 1947* and its *Amendments of 1949*. The 1947 Act:

- Redesignated the Department of War as the Department of the Army, headed by the Secretary of the Army.
- Created a separate Department of the Air Force and the U.S. Air Force as a branch of the armed forces.
- Loosely grouped the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force under the title of the National Military Establishment.
- Established the Joint Chiefs of Staff, composed of the military chiefs of the three services, as a council to advise the three department secretaries and the president on military matters.

Then, in 1949, Congress amended the *National Security Act of 1947* by passing the *National Security Act Amendments of 1949*. These amendments:

- Established the **Department of Defense (DOD)** under the executive branch of the government and placed the Departments of the Army, Navy (including the Marine Corps), and Air Force subordinate to it.
- Established a **Secretary of Defense** to assist the president in providing direction, authority, and control of the three services. This secretary is appointed by the president and is a member of the president's cabinet.
- Stipulated that the president would appoint civilian secretaries to head of the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and that those secretaries would come under the authority of the Secretary of Defense. These secretaries are responsible for, and have the necessary authority to conduct, all the affairs of their departments.

- Established a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also appointed by the president, who would have direct access to the Secretary of Defense.



Following the passage of the *National Security Act* and its *Amendments*, Congress passed the *Army Organization Act of 1950*. This Act provides the legal basis for the present internal organization of the Army and the Department of the Army. It organizes the Army into a composite of commands, components, and branches — organized, trained, and equipped primarily for prompt and sustained combat operations on land.

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THE ARMY CONCEPT

Under the Army concept, the U.S. Army consists of the active Army, the reserve

components, and the Department of the Army civilian work force. The reserve components consist of the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. The purpose of these components is to provide trained units and qualified personnel to be available for active duty in time of war, national emergency, or at other times as dictated by national security requirements. (Note: We will discuss the reserve components in detail later in this chapter.)

A bond of mutual agreement exists among the active Army, the reserve components, and the Department of the Army civilian work force to ensure the operational effectiveness of the total Army. This bond promotes:

- ⇒ A balanced force structure.
- ⇒ Programs and projects designed to ensure modern equipment for both the active and reserve components.

There is cooperation and affiliation (teamwork) between active and reserve units, thus enhancing the mobilization potential of the reserve components and ensuring their timely availability to satisfy wartime reinforcement objectives.

MAJOR ROLES OF THE TOTAL ARMY

In addition to its main mission — to deter war and to win in combat — the Army's major roles in executing U.S. military policies are:

- To maintain the ability to respond to any level of aggression.
- To be well-trained and equipped to prevent conflict.
- If land forces are committed in combat, to be employed at a level of strength

necessary to ensure a swift and decisive end of the conflict.

- To bring about an end to the conflict in terms favorable to the United States.
- To fulfill a peacetime role by being able to contribute personnel and resources to domestic programs that support the general welfare of the people.



THE ACTIVE ARMY

The active (or regular) Army is a component of the U.S. Army maintained by the federal government in peace and in war. Congress authorizes its strength yearly under the provisions of Article 1 of the *Constitution*. At the same time, Congress appropriates money for its sustenance, modernization, and pay.

MISSIONS OF THE ACTIVE ARMY

The Army must be able to respond to threats that occur anywhere in the world. In addition, the Army supports security assistance programs conducted by the Departments of the State and Defense to friendly countries seeking economic and military assistance to maintain their stability and security. The Army makes an important contribution to those programs by providing military advisers, equipment, and other support. The results are positive because the Army's efforts are instrumental in implement-

ing U.S. national security policies, and the Army shares in the benefits of mutual friendship, cooperation, and understanding — all of which serve the nation's interests.

Major CONUS Commands

Army Material Command
 Military District of Washington
 Training and Doctrine Command
 Forces Command
 Medical Command
 Army Intelligence and Security Command
 Criminal Investigation Command
 Corps of Engineers
 Military Traffic Management Command
 Army Special Operations Command

Major OCONUS Commands

U.S. Army Europe
 U.S. Army Pacific
 Eighth Army
 U.S. Army South

Although maintaining national security is the determining factor in the need for an Army, the active Army also contributes in peacetime to the nation's general welfare through domestic involvement. However, Congress limits this involvement by law, tradition, and the need for the Army to maintain a high level of readiness to fulfill its primary mission. Some of the ways the Army contributes to domestic affairs are by:

- Providing assistance to communities during natural disasters.
- Assisting civilian communities during civil disturbances by providing personnel and equipment in support of civilian police forces.
- Assisting civilian communities with civic-action programs.
- Improving flood control and navigation.
- Adding to the nation's scientific and technological skills through extensive research and development programs.
- Advising and assisting governmental agencies in fighting the war on drugs.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ACTIVE ARMY

MAJOR COMMANDS

The Department of the Army organizes the active Army in a number of ways. There are ten major commands in the Continental United States (CONUS) and four major commands located in Europe, Asia, and other regions of the world. The most well-known commands in CONUS are Forces Command (FORSCOM) at Fort McPherson, Georgia, and Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

- FORSCOM controls all the combat and support units at installations throughout the United States.
- TRADOC is responsible for developing Army **doctrine** and training. TRADOC also exercises control over the training installations throughout the United States. U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Command, a major subordinate command of TRADOC, manages both the Senior and Junior ROTC programs.

BRANCHES OF THE U.S. ARMY

The Army classifies its units and personnel by branches. Branch names identify the types of units that personnel can select to enter (on enlistment) and the personnel who

are trained in the primary functions of that branch. There are 17 basic and eight special branches. The Army classifies 15 of the basic branches into the categories of combat arms, combat support, and combat service support. The remaining two, Special Forces and Civil Affairs, are **non-accession** branches. The eight special branches are all combat service support units.

- ◆ *Special Forces*: Accomplishes missions of **unconventional** warfare, foreign internal defense, direct action, strategic reconnaissance, and counterterrorism.
- ◆ *Civil Affairs*: Is only in the Army Reserve and it accomplishes missions of command, control, and coordination of civil-military operations.

COMBAT ARMS

The combat arms branches are directly involved in the conduct of actual fighting. (*Note: Depending on their mission, Engineer units can be a combat arms, combat support, or a combat service support branch.*) The combat arms branches are as follows:

- ◆ *Infantry*: Closes with the enemy by means of fire and maneuver, on foot or in armored vehicles, in order to destroy or capture the enemy or repel their assault by fire, close combat, or counterattack. Infantry is the nucleus around which the Army groups the other branches in combat operations.
- ◆ *Armor*: Conducts mobile land and cavalry warfare; the tank is the nucleus of its forces.
- ◆ *Field Artillery*: Provides indirect fire support for the Infantry and Armor. Field Artillery uses cannons, missiles, and

rockets and is capable of providing both nuclear and non-nuclear firepower.

- ◆ *Air Defense Artillery*: Provides air and missile defense on the battlefield by destroying enemy aircraft and missiles with automatic weapons or missiles.
- ◆ *Aviation*: Provides prompt and sustained combat air operations. Aviation units participate in a variety of combat and support roles including attack, assault helicopter, aerial observation, transportation, lift, supply, and troop transport duties.
- ◆ *Corps of Engineers*: Combat Engineer units are part of the combined arms team in combat operations. Corps of Engineers units provide combat support including construction, demolition, amphibious operations, defensive barriers, camouflage/topographic activities, and minefield employment.

COMBAT SUPPORT

The combat support branches provide operational assistance to the combat arms, and they participate in combat operations as part of the combined arms team. (*Note: The Signal Corps, Chemical Corps, and Military Police Corps can either be a combat support or a combat service support branch.*) The combat support branches are as follows.

- ◆ *Corps of Engineers*: See description under combat arms.
- ◆ *Chemical Corps*: Provides the Army with highly trained people in nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) warfare defense programs. These programs include employment, logistical support, defensive procedures, equipment, training, scientific

development, and management of NBC materials.

- ◆ Signal Corps: Provides command and control communications for Army forces. Signal units install, operate, and maintain communication-electronic equipment.
- ◆ Military Police Corps: Performs missions such as enforcing laws and regulations, conducting criminal investigative operations, securing U.S. government property, discharging of correctional functions, controlling traffic and movements, and securing critical areas and lines of communication.
- ◆ Military Intelligence: Plans, conducts, and supervises collection, analysis, production, and dissemination of intelligence, such as combat intelligence, and **counter-intelligence** information pertaining to the enemy, weather, or terrain.

COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT

The combat service support branches perform combat service support activities or administrative functions for the Army. These branches may also provide specialized services to other departments of the federal government and to the people of the United States. *(Note: The eight special branches of the Army are all combat service support units; they are: the Judge Advocate General's Corps, Medical Corps, Dental Corps, Veterinary Corps, Army Nurse Corps, Army Medical Specialist Corps, Medical Service Corps, and the Chaplains.)*

The combat service support branches are as follows:

- ◆ Adjutant General Corps: Formulates policy and manages the Army's administrative and personnel systems.

- ◆ Corps of Engineers: See description under combat arms.

- ◆ Finance Corps: Is responsible for the management of the Army's financial resources, which includes paying U.S. Army personnel.

- ◆ Quartermaster Corps: Plans and directs the acquisition, receipt, storage, preservation, and issue of equipment, repair parts, fortification/construction material, subsistence, petroleum products, water, and other general supplies.

- ◆ Signal Corps: See description under combat support.

- ◆ Chemical Corps: See description under combat support.

- ◆ Military Police Corps: See description under combat support.

- ◆ Ordnance Corps: Is responsible for the maintenance and management of armament, tracked, wheeled, and general purpose vehicles, conventional and special munitions, test equipment, management of air defense and land combat missile systems, and construction material.

- ◆ Transportation Corps: Is responsible for the movement of personnel and equipment for the Army and for the Navy, Air Force, and government agencies as assigned.

- ◆ Judge Advocate General's Corps: Provides professional legal service and assistance in the fields of both military and civil law and supervises the Army's system of military justice.

- ◆ Army Medical Department (includes *Medical Corps, Dental Corps, Veterinary Corps, Army Nurse Corps, Army Medical*

Specialist Corps, and *Medical Service Corps*): Provides medical, dental, and veterinary care. The chief functions of the Medical Department are: care of the sick and wounded, physical examinations, prevention of disease, and the operation of hospitals and dispensaries.

- ◆ Chaplains: The duties of the Army chaplains are similar to those performed

by their civilian counterparts. They are clergymen from recognized denominational groups who have volunteered to perform their ministry in the Army. The mission of the Chaplains branch is to promote religion and morality in the Army by providing religious services, education, and counseling.